

i-FoRST



Info from Faculty of Resource Science and Technology



The Regional Taxonomy and Ecology Conference 2015 - TEC 2015



UNIMAS - FRI Collaboration



ANIS 2015 Symposium



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Dean's Message

The year of 2016 marks another challenging period for the faculty, one that will set the stage for an even brighter future.

Currently, we are conducting Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) for our undergraduate curriculum in order to be current and up to date with the needs of our stakeholders. The faculty aims are to fulfill the goals of developing interest in the quest for knowledge and lifelong learning skills that will make it possible to keep pace with the rapid growth in global knowledge.

Our recent February intake, welcomed four international undergraduate students from Japan, Brunei, Bangladesh and Indonesia. This new intake has increased the number of our international undergraduate enrolment to a total of 19 from 13 countries. This continued increase in the number of international undergraduates students reflects the effort of our university in increasing its global visibility and prominence.

New faculty website was launched during Amanat Naib Canselor 2016 on 3rd February 2016. This new website addresses a variety of new and improved features. With unbeatable spirit, focused approach and clarity of the purpose, our team has put together this website, rich in information, more interactive, easier to navigate and more user-friendly.

The Faculty of Resource Science and Technology is teeming with activities, and we are making an impact down the street and across the world. In this issue, we have included a number of articles that demonstrate the breadth of our activities and their impact on our communities. I hope you enjoy this edition of i-FoRST.

Congratulations to the editorial board for the continuing publication of i-FoRST.

Warmest regards,

Assoc Prof. Dr Othman Bojo



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THE REGIONAL TAXONOMY AND ECOLOGY CONFERENCE 2015 (TEC 2015)



The Regional Taxonomy and Ecology Conference 2015 (TEC 2015) was held in Grand Margherita, Kuching from 1 – 2 December, 2015. It was organized by the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology and officiated by the honourable assistant minister for the Chief Minister's Office (Promotion of Technical Education) and Environment Sarawak, Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh.

This conference was a regional forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas in wide variety of areas for taxonomist, ecologist, practitioners and planners as well as to address challenges and share information about ecosystem projects, programmes and research particularly from the Southeast Asian region.

The conference had 140 participants from Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei and Indonesia. There were four plenary lectures, 57 oral presentations, and 34 posters covering diverse aspect of taxonomy, ecology, biodiversity and conservation.

The first day of the conference began with two plenary lectures. Prof. Emer. Dato' Dr. Abdul Latiff Mohamad, the first plenary speaker, gave an interesting plenary lecture entitled "Is plant taxonomy in Malaysia in crisis?" followed by Dr. Samsur Mohamad who talked about "Toxicity and taxonomic study of puffer fishes, coral crabs and horseshoe crabs in Sarawak". Another two plenary papers were presented in the second day of the conference. Prof. Dr. Indraneil Das delivered an exciting lecture on "How shifting names can kill: Biological nomenclature and venomous snake identification" and the fourth plenary paper was presented by Tn Hj. Abdul Khalim Abu Samah on "Management of high conservation value forests (HCVF) in Peninsular Malaysia as part of sustainable forest management practices".

The conference also featured a dinner on board Sarawak River Cruise and a field trip to Green Turtle Headstarting Program at Lundu. The dinner was especially memorable since it provide night view of the city and the majestic view of Sarawak's DUN (Dewan Undangan Negeri) building as well as enjoying the cultural dance performances. The field trip to Pandan beach, a head-starting area for green turtles conservation project, allowed participants to admire and appreciate the unique behavior and characteristics of green turtle hatchlings.

As always in many conferences, during refreshment, dinner and poster session, there was a cosy atmosphere and everybody had the chance to know each other, which is part of TEC idea. The conference demonstrated that there are young and budding taxonomists and ecologists across the region that are interested to develop closer ties in research activities. I believe taxonomy and ecology have much to offer that can benefit the society.

- Ismail Jusoh

THE REGIONAL TAXONOMY AND ECOLOGY CONFERENCE 2015 (TEC 2015) – STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION–



Crowd during poster viewing session at Asajaya Hall

TEC 2015 was held on 1st and 2nd December 2015 at Grand Magherita Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak. One of the activities were Poster Competition (for student participants only). A total of 36 posters were presented and 70% was posters by the student participants.

Poster Competition was divided into 2 categories, namely: i) Best Poster, and ii) Favourite Poster. There were ten appointed judges, and they evaluated each poster based on rubrics related to clarity, content, style/delivery, use of aids and integration of knowledge. Peak time for poster evaluation was around 4.30 pm, 1st December 2015, in which participants were extremely busy reading and evaluating posters for Favourite Poster category, whereas professional judges were at work assessing the posters for Best Poster category. Each winner was given a certificate and goodies from the organizer. The winner were as follows:

BEST POSTER

1st place

A COMPARISON OF TREE FLORA DIVERSITY IN TWO HEATH FOREST IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
Faten Suaidah Saman, Rahayu Sukmaria Sukri & Faizah Metali

(Universiti Brunei Darussalam)



2nd place

GROWTH PERFORMANCE AND YIELD POTENTIAL OF MR269 RICE CULTIVATED ON DIFFERENT SOIL TYPES OF SARAWAK
Emilda Anak Edwin Samaie & Mohd Effendi Wasli

(Universiti Malaysia Sarawak)



FAVOURITE POSTER

MICROBES ASSOCIATED WITH INFECTED ABOVE GROUND PARTS OF ACACIA MANGIUM SARAWAK
Abdul Raffi Junaidi

(Universiti Malaysia Sarawak)



Ms. Hashimatul Fatma evaluating Ms. Sharifah Mariam's poster



Brief presentation by Mr. Ogary Kinshen to Dr. Mohd Nazip Suratman (UiTM)



Mr. Zahran Mansor emphasized the relevance of the content to Dr. Andi Salamah (Universitas Indonesia), one of the Professional Judges.



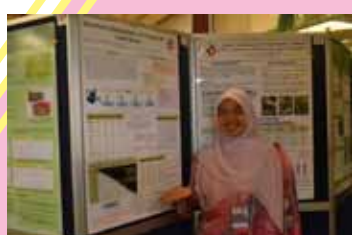
Effective visual aids – highlight and clarify the points!



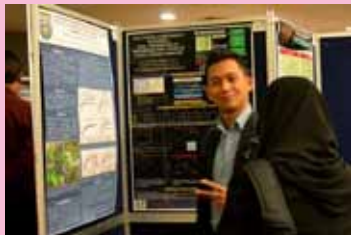
Posters on display for delegates' viewing throughout the session



Representative of the participants in Poster Competition



Ms. Dyg Nur Ainayana (presenter) standing next to her poster



Attendees voting their favourite poster



TEC 2015 Secretariats help sums up the evaluated marks into an average



Closing ceremony & winners were announced

– Fatin Shafira, Ahmad Syafiq, Elvy Quatrin Deka, Mohamad Nor Fakihi Aqsa & Ruhana Hassan



One photo for our social media platform - Post Conference activity of TEC 2015: Turtle Conservation Project at Pantai Pandan Lundu Sarawak

Unforgettable TEC 2015 Post Conference Activity

Many of us face dilemma whether to join or not to join post-conference tour or activity, mostly because the activities are too common or in short could be summarized as “been there, done that!”

TEC 2015 post-conference activity took place in Pandan Beach, Lundu, approximately two and half hours drive from Kuching City. However, on the very day of the activity (3rd December 2015), the traffic congestion was unbelievably bad around Bau-Lundu road, thus we were two hours behind original schedule. We arrived at Pandan Gold Coast Holiday Villa (PGCHV) at approximately 10.45 a.m. The event started with a warm welcoming speech from the owner, followed by talk about Turtle Conservation Project by Ms Nurhatini Kamalia Yahya, a PhD candidate who reared green turtles for 18 months at PGCHV facility.

At approximately, 11.15 a.m., something unforgettable happened! All participants were invited to set free 39 young turtles to the sea! There are not enough words to describe the experience... may be the right word is ‘AWESOME’! This activity was facilitated by Dr Charles Leh, Sarawak Turtle Board (Sarawak Museum) who is also the co-supervisor of Nurhartini’s PhD project.

Take home message from this post conference experience: next time, when we feel undecided about something, always choose the positive one – there is something good bound to happen when you least expected them!

- Fakihiin Aqsa, Nurhartini Kamalia Yahya & Ruhana Hassan



Good bye, girls! Hope to see you again here in 2035 (nesting season).



On the way to free the young turtle



Nur Hartini Kamalia Yahya, Penang-born scientist, proud of her work, one good step in a long turtle conservation effort in Sarawak.

Sampling and working experience on MV SEAFDEC 2 cruise for the Sarawak EEZ Survey

Project: **UNIMAS – FRI** collaboration

An oceanographic and fish survey project along the Sarawak Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) which include areas from Miri to Kuching waters were conducted from 17th August 2015 to 5th October 2015. This is a collaborative project with Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) Bintawa, Sarawak on board the research vessel MV SEAFDEC 2. Many samples were collected during the cruise which covered various fields of oceanographic studies.

Throughout the journey, many unforgettable events occurred such as dolphins swimming beautifully close to the vessel, spectacular sight of flying fish, splashing of seawater on our faces due to speed of vessel against the wave, experienced the small impact of the cyclone that occurred in Vietnam waters with more than 5 m wave above the vessel, observing the pinkish and greenish fluorescent jellyfishes and also the sea snakes that swam around our plankton net at sea surface waters near the vessel, beautiful lights from oil and gas platforms during the night and star gazing.



Seasickness is a common symptom to those who are not use to sailing, including us. Initially, we depended so much on the seasickness pills that we bought from the pharmacy. But later, we were feeling better and started to get used with the sea and need no more pills. Each legs or sub-areas have different participants on board including the FRI and UNIMAS staffs, and each leg took approximately one week to cover the sampling sites for oceanography survey and fishing activities

We were tremendously grateful and thankful to have this golden opportunity to participate in this research activities on MV SEAFDEC 2, which has also open our eyes to see so many potential jobs offered in aquatic science field. We learned that how important it is to have collaborations and networking, nationally and internationally. Although our field of studies were on trace / heavy metals distributions (in seawater, sediment and aerosol) and marine productivity, we also assisted and at the same time experienced collecting sample of ichthyoplankton, seawater for phytoplankton study, sediment for benthos, and a number of selected demersal fish species. We were grateful to the Captain and the First Officer of the vessel for sharing their knowledge on the cruise navigation and mapping process.



During this cruise, FRI researchers were conducting demersal fish survey in the Sarawak waters, with the help from SEAFDEC 2 crews from Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) Thailand. We were amazed by the skilfulness of the crews in fixing severely torn fishing net so that the next sampling process could be done according to the plan. Interestingly we learned the skill to remove poisonous marine organisms, such as sea snakes that were trapped in our fishing net.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to FRI Bintawa and UNIMAS for giving us these treasurable and memorable experiences to work at sea (South China Sea). Furthermore, we were able to make connections and networking with researchers from other institutions who had participated in this project, such as from UM, USM, UMS, and from Thailand. Our communication skills were also enhanced as we learned new language (Thai) from our new friends from Thailand (the crews). The Thai cuisines served on board were also very delicious and fresh. In future, we hope that this kind of collaboration project will be conducted again.

- Melissa Dennis Chong, Nur Syazwani Binti Abd Rahim, Farah Akmal Idrus



Some activities during the sampling process for Server oceanography survey



Fishes and other marine organisms that caught on board the MV SEAFDEC 2



Workshop on Instrumentation and Chromatography Techniques for Lodge International School

The Department of Chemistry has organized a workshop on Instrumentation and Chromatography Techniques for the A-level students from Lodge International School on 28 January 2016 at the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology (FRST), UNIMAS. The main objective of this workshop is to introduce the fundamental of spectroscopy and chromatography techniques with some hands-on experience to enhance their understanding in these topics so that they are better prepared for the A-level examination. The Department has conducted the workshop for students of Lodge International School for four consecutive years already.

A total of 29 students accompanied by two teachers, Mdm. Ng Pei Fen and Mr. John Law had taken part in this workshop which incorporated learning four instruments including NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy), FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy), UV-Vis (Ultraviolet Visible Spectroscopy) and GCMS (Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer). The students were also introduced to the column chromatography technique, facilitated by the postgraduate students of FRST. Through this workshop, the students are able to consolidate the knowledge they acquire in the classroom and encourage their interest in learning Chemistry.

The workshop ended with the presentation of certificates and souvenirs to the participants and teachers.

- Tay Meng Guan & Sim Siong Fong



Postgraduate Research Attachment Programme from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu at Faculty of Resource Science and Technology (FRST)

Two postgraduate students, Nur Amirah Nabilah Mohd Rashid and Yasmin Ridwan Morgan, from School of Fundamental Science, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) were invited to carry out a research attachment programme here at Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, FRST for two weeks from 7th to 21st Jan 2016. They learned the alternative synthetic technique in Schiff-base synthesis as well as exchanging ideas in their current research work with the postgraduate students in Chemistry Department. The student attachment programme is an outcome from the long term research collaboration between Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd Khairul Wan Mohamed Zin, who is currently the Deputy Dean of Talent and Research at School of Fundamental Science in UMT and carrying out research on exploiting active molecules in the area of molecular electronics, and Dr. Tay Meng Guan from Chemistry Department in UNIMAS.

In addition to learning alternative Schiff-base synthetic technique, the two postgraduate students also had the chance to experience the operation of one of our state-of-the-art high end instruments of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) in FRST and performed the analysis of their samples. At the end of the attachment program, both students were required to present their findings here at FRST as well sharing their experiences that they have gained in UNIMAS.

-Tay Meng Guan



Photo taken in UNIMAS' lake with the postgraduate students in Chemistry Department
Yasmin (left, second) and Nur Amirah (left third)



A souvenir was presented to Nur Amirah by Dr. Tay after she has completed her presentation



A souvenir was presented to Yasmin by Dr. Tay after she has completed her presentation

WATER SAMPLING AND WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

The Department of Chemistry had successfully organized workshop on Water Sampling and Water Quality Analysis on 12 -13th January 2016. The workshop was facilitated by Prof. Dr. Lau Seng and Dr. Tay Meng Guan and assisted by Majorie Matu, Syaifuddin Bojeng and Azis Ajim. This workshop is part of the Lifelong Learning activities, initiated by the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology. The workshop was developed to cater for the needs of officers from various government agencies to enhance their knowledge and technical skills in water quality monitoring and analysis.

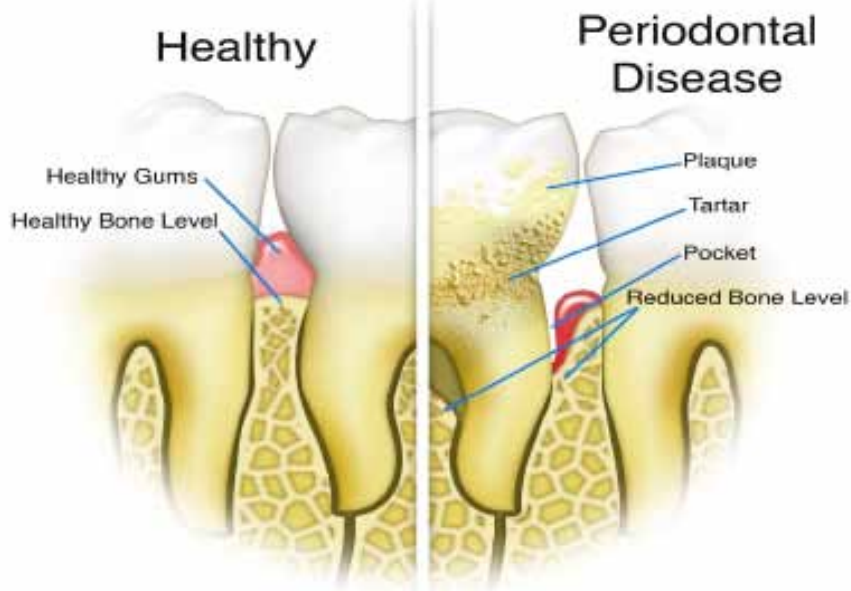
The workshop was attended by officers from four government agencies, namely, the Natural Resource and Environment Board Sarawak (NREB), the Department of Agriculture, In-Land Fisheries Division and Sarawak Forestry Department. Participants found the two-day workshop is very relevant to their daily duties in their offices where some began to understand the tasks that they have been doing routinely all these while and others found it as useful course to refresh the knowledge they learned many years ago. In general, the outcomes of this workshop are good and this encourages us to conduct more of such courses in the future. The highlights of the workshop were the closing and presentation of certificates of attendance to participants by the Dean of FRST.

- Lau Seng & Tay Meng Guan



Get to know Periodontal disease

Periodontal disease is recognised as a major global oral health burden, alongside dental caries and inequalities in periodontal health exists in under privileged subpopulations in both developed and developing countries. Periodontal diseases are mainly the result of infections and inflammation of the gums and bones that surround and support the teeth. The composition of the microflora changes as a child matures and the bacteria in the mother's mouth can be passed on to the developing child prior to delivery, especially in mothers with periodontal disease during pregnancy. Many of the periodontal pathogens are transmittable, which includes transmission via kissing or even a quick sip from a drink whereby bacteria are passed on to the child unknowingly. Although attempts have been made to reveal the relationship between bacteria and human health, little data is known about the species and function of the microbial community associated with oral diseases.



FRST ZOOLOGY POSTGRADUATE STUDENT EXCEL IN AVIS2015 SYMPOSIUM, THAILANDS.

On the dates of 15 till 18 December 2015 a group of seven participants from FRST, UNIMAS led by Dr Faisal Ali Anwarali Khan from Department of Zoology, FRST, UNIMAS has joined the 5th International Symposium on Asian Vertebrate Species Diversity 2015 (AVIS2015). The symposium was organized by the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science & Center of Learning Network for the Region Chulalongkorn University, Thailand in collaboration with The Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) & the Kyoto University Museum, Kyoto University, Japan. The symposium was held in Chulalongkorn University Forest and Research Station at Saraburi's province. A total of 111 students and researchers from 13 countries participated in this symposium.

During the event, two keynote lectures, 43 oral presentations and 20 poster presentations were used as a platform for exchanging ideas, discussion among experienced and young researchers. The symposium aims to develop network

for Asian vertebrate species diversity research toward understanding beyond country borders. Our UNIMAS team members have presented an oral presentation on various topics related to mammals including primates (primates' related parasites), bats, rodents and shrew. In addition, all the delegates had an opportunity to join a short field work during the symposium and also opportunity to visit primate research site at Khao Yai National Park.

On the last day of the symposium, Mr Muhd Amsyari Morni was awarded as the best presenter for his research entitled "Genetic and Morphological assessment of *Crociodura monticola* from Malaysia". Congratulation to Mr Amsyari! Last but not least, we hope there will be more participants from our university in coming years to attend this international symposium.

-Rafik Murni & Faisal Ali Anwarali Khan



First Zoology Postgraduate Symposium

The Department of Zoology has successfully organized the 1st Zoology Postgraduate Symposium on 18 November, 2015. There were 26 oral presentations were given by 23 Master and 3 PhD candidates. This symposium has provided opportunities for the students to present their research findings, exchange knowledge with their friends and academicians, as well as a platform for them to polish their oral presentation skill. Our department hopes that this symposium will be held every year to create cultures of valuing knowledge sharing among the postgraduate students.

- Dency Flenny & Zahran Mansor



STA Academic Awards, 2015

Hard work and their strive for excellence has paid-off for both Mr. Tan Hong Wee and Ms. Dayang Nur Ainnayana Abg Bohari of the Department of Plant Science & Environmental Ecology as both students were awarded the Best Graduating Student and Best Final Year Project Report from Sarawak Timber Association (STA).

From Muar, Johor, Mr. Tan was awarded the Best Graduating Student from Plant Resource Science and Management programme, Faculty of Resource Science Technology (FRST), UNIMAS. Active with extra-curricular activities during his studies in FRST (Student Representative Council Committee of Allamanda Residential College), Mr. Tan had excelled in his studies after being awarded the Dean's list for six consecutive times and was awarded Bachelor Degree with honours (Plant Resource Science and Management) with a distinction (First Class) at the recent UNIMAS Convocation, November 2015. As for Ms. Dayang Nur Ainnayana, her final year research project entitled "Structural Characteristics of a Regrowth Forest Stand" had won her the Best Final Year Research Project (Related to Forestry or Timber Industry) for the academic session of year 2015. The recipient of STA scholarship in year 2013, the Kuching lad had excelled in her studies and wishes to be involve in Forestry related organization in the future.

Since the initiation of the co-operation, Sarawak Timber Association along with DAIKEN Sarawak Sdn. Bhd. had been providing academic awards and scholarships to outstanding students from the Plant Resource Science and Management programme. It is hoped that this co-operation will help strengthen nation's aspirations in building high quality human capital for the need of the local and global stakeholders.

- Mohd Effendi Wasli



TAN HONG WEE



DAYANG NUR AINNAYANA
BINTI ABANG BOHARI

EXPERIENCING THE AFTERMATH OF MEGA TSUNAMI - LESSON FROM THE IMPACT OF NATURAL DISASTER JAPAN-ASIA YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN SCIENCE (SAKURA SCIENCE PROGRAMME)

On 23rd October – 3rd November 2015, 13 students (consist of 10 Students from FRST and 3 students from FEng) participated in "Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science" (SAKURA Exchange Program in Science) to visit Tohoku region, Japan. With the theme of "Science and Disaster Prevention: Revitalising Natural Disaster Prevention and Control for Life Environment Infrastructure", this program was supported/organised by Japan-Malaysia Association (JMA) and Japan Science & Technology (JST) in conjunction with the joint research project between JMA and researchers in JSTEP. Among the main highlight of this study programme was the opportunity to visit the restoration sites at Ishinomaki city coastal forest regeneration site for calamity prevention which were affected by the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami in the year 2011.

Students were also exposed on the reclamation effort as conducted by local governments and NGOs such as construction of new public facilities and recovering coastal forests towards prevention of big waves via tsunami. As part of the training activities, participants had the opportunity to participate in exchange programmes at several universities at Tohoku-Kanto region among them; Utsunomiya University, International Research Institute of Disaster Science (Tohoku University), Shibaura Institute of Technology (SIT) and Toyo University. Moreover, students were given the opportunity to visit facilities at multinational companies/ organisation related to semi-conductor production and energy provider namely Sato Engineering Co. Ltd, ANRITSU Co. Ltd., Tokyo Gas LNG-Fired Power Plant and Shinjuku District Sewage and Water Reprocessing Centre. At the end of the study programme, all participants presented their reflection on their experienced from the study programme in Japan to the organizing committee as well as invited guests from various related organization.

- Mohd Effendi Wasli



PARTICIPATION OF PLANTERS STUDENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD SCIENCE COURSE BY KOCHI UNIVERSITY, JAPAN

CHUA KEK SHEN, WS50 program student, year 3: "Sugoi" is the most suitable Japanese term for me to describe my experience in joining the amazing student exchange program organized by Kochi University, Japan. Cool breezes of autumn together with the typical leaves colour turning gradually to yellow or red impressed me as a first-time visitor to Japan. I am glad to meet friends from various countries including Malaysia who came from various universities in Asia; Universiti Putra Malaysia, Thailand (Kasetsart University and Khon Kaen University), Vietnam (Hanoi National University of Education) and of course, Japanese university students. We shared our countries cultures including language, traditional games and clothes as well as my favourite local delicacies. Throughout the training, we participated in some hands-on activities such as pruning Hinoki pine tree (*Chamaecyparis* sp.). In addition, a brief tour to Agriculture Research Centre and Marine Core Research Facility were an eye-opening experience. Our program schedule also comprised of trip to Makino Botanical Garden which have a well-organized herbarium. All the flora within the garden are clearly labelled with descriptions. Despite our hectic schedule, we had the opportunity to visit several factories and tourist attractions in Kochi city for instance Ryugado cave, Muroto Geopark and Kochi Castle. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to UNIMAS especially the Faculty of Resource Science & Technology for this once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in an international exchange programme. Short time but long stories!

EMPAJANG MANDIS, WS50 program student, year 3: As someone who has never been outside of Malaysia, this is one great experience. It's truly memorable. Upon arriving in Japan, the beauty of the ornamental trees on the roadside is notched up because of the changing in the leaves colour in autumn. Even though the program only last for a short time, all of us that joined this program has become rather close and we learnt a lot from each other. Bits of words of own language and tradition were shared and taught among the participants throughout the program and some of those words still stick in my mind especially those that was taught by the Thai students. I was able to even managed to get enlisted into my list of favourite food. During the program, we sample quite a number of Japanese, Thai and Vietnamese cuisines and some of them visited a few places and learnt many new things. For example, during the visit to Kochi Agricultural Research Centre, we were taught on the difference between the Japanese and the Dutch greenhouse system. We were also exposed on how to perform pruning of trees in forest plantation and the lucky ones were given the opportunity to operate the machine used to load the logs onto the truck. The visit to the Makino Botanical Garden is one of the tours that I really enjoy although tiring. The guide who is also a plant systematic expert accompanied us during the tour and explained about the history of plant systematic in Japan. Lastly, thanks to FRST & UNIMAS for this eye-opening experience.

- Mohd Effendi Wasli



A MEMORABLE FIELDTRIP TO KUMPANG LANGGIR, ENKKILILI

A fieldtrip to Kumpang Linggir, Engkilili, Sri Aman was conducted from 28th January until 4th February 2015. Upon arrival we were presented with an attractive cultural dance by the local people - the Ibans. This fieldtrip was led by Assoc. Prof. Charlie J. M. Laman and accompanied by several other researchers namely Prof. Ismail Jusoh, Ms. Wan Nurainie, Ms. Ratnawati, Mr. Jongkar Grinang Kumpan, Dr. Faisal Ali, Dr. Mohd. Azlan Jayasilan and Dr. Aida Shafreena. A total of 30 students including undergraduate and postgraduate along with lab assistants namely Mr. Mohd Rizan, Mr. Sekudan, Mr. Trevor Allen and Mr. Nasron participated in this trip.

In this trip, our group was led by Dr Aida Shafreena and we collected lianas, specifically the *Tetrastigma* species from the grape family (Vitaceae) and *Schefflera* species from the ginseng family (Araliaceae). A total of three *Tetrastigma* species, were collected namely *T. diepenhorstii*, *T. rafflesiae*, and *T. megacarpum*. We managed to get fertile samples for *T. rafflesiae*, of which benefited us with the revision of *Tetrastigma* species in Sarawak. Based on previous records, both *T. diepenhorstii* and *T. rafflesiae* were the host plants for *Rafflesia* species, the world largest flower. *Rafflesia* flower was reported to bloom at the Kalimantan border (years ago), about 3-4 hours walk from Kumpang Linggir. As for *Schefflera* species, two species were found in this trip, namely *S. elliptica* and *Schefflera* cf. *borneensis*. Both species were in sterile state (no fruit or flower found) when the collection was being made.

It was a memorable experience working in such a beautiful and pristine forest of Kumpang Linggir and we also learned so much about the biodiversity, the culture and tradition of the local people here. We enjoyed this trip and hope to be back again soon.

- Wan Nuur Fatiha Wan Zakaria, Siti Noor Aishah Mohd Noor & Aida Shafreena Ahmad Puad



Tarian Ngajat with the longhouse residents



Crystal clear river and beautiful forest



Rest break on the trail after an hour of hiking



Salau (the porter) showing akar ruran (Iban)



Tetrastigma species



Schefflera species

SOLAT HAJAT & MOTIVATIONAL TALK

Over the years, PERSAINTEK had hosted numerous events for the students and staffs. One of the event was "IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?" which was held on 11th December 2015. This event was held a week before the revision week. This event was mainly for students. There were two activities carried out that evening, Solat Hajat and motivational talk by Dr Lee Kui Soon entitled "ARE YOU AN ORDINARY OR EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT"

Solat Hajat, was carried out in the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology (FRST) lobby. This is to stay blessed and have faith in god, so that students achieved success in their examinations. Solat Hajat was conducted from 7.00 pm until 9.30 pm.



The motivational talk entitled "ARE YOU AN ORDINARY OR EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT?" was conducted in the Multimedia Theater (TMM), FRST. The talk was delivered by Dr Lee Kui Soon, a lecturer from Department of Molecular Biology. His motivational talk gave inspirations to the students before they sat for their final examination. This talk boosted the students confidence level in preparing themselves for the final examination.

As conclusion, this event provide inspirations, motivation and encouragements for students to achieve success in their final examinations.

- Persaintek

SPORTS CARNIVAL 2015 (KARSU 2015)

PERSAINTEK has organized the Sports Carnival 2015 or KarSu 2015 which was held from 28th until 30th November 2015 and to 5th to 6th December 2015. Participation was opened to all students and staffs from FRST. This event has achieved its objectives and succeeded in providing a platform for the students to show their skills and talents.

Ability, potential and teamwork are three main traits that can be observed from all the participants which were in accordance with the one of the objectives of this event that is to promote a good sportsmanship in every students.



KarSu 2015 will be organized annually by PERSAINTEK and there is an increasing number of participants from last year (2014), which was 233. Netball, Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Chess, Table Tennis, Futsal and Bowling are the games that are opened to all students and staffs during KarSu 2015. Interestingly, there are two games which are as the most popular games in KarSu 2015; Futsal and Volleyball, where the number of participant recorded was the highest.

- Persaintek

ORDINARY STUDENT IN HER OVERWHELMING WORLD

Annyeonghaseyo!”, Gomabseubnida”, and Jal jinaeya” are some of the common expressions during my everyday life in Korea.

Just like any ordinary students i shared the same dreams and desire of studying abroad. My dreams come true! After joining the short-term exchange student and lived in Korea for about 4 wonderful months, now I feel I have become more independent. From the one-semester exchange student I have learnt different cultures, lifestyle, cuisine, etiquette and language as well as challenges with unforgettable experiences of my lifetime. For those who did not know, I was in Chonnam National University, Gwangju, South Korea.

During weekends at my leisure time, I visited various cities in South Korea including Busan, Incheon, Seoul, Boseong, Jeongju and many more. I also

attended concerts, performances, festivals and visited historic monuments. I had fun exploring the Korean cultures. I was a speaker at ‘The World Inside The School Volunteer Program’. During the programme i spock and introduced Malaysia.

I also joined the ‘2nd Korean Culture Experience Programme’, to become a member of International volunteer during Gwangju International Centre Day and was interviewed by Gwangju public radio station’s (GFN station). Other than that, I had become a seller at the flea market and International Cuisine Market. I spent time joining coffee hour breaks with international students almost every two weeks. This experience have been nothing but incredible and I met some inspiring individuals along the way. For me, meeting many people from different cultures and background was the most memorable experiences i have ever had.

I can say that exchange program to Korea is interesting and readers should try to make a journey such as mine, nothing is impossible. I miss Korea, but it is time to move on to something new.

Finally, I would like to express thanks to all, for their continued support, help and advices that makes this exchange program a succesful one for me. Anyone who want to know more regarding my exchange program, please email me at cheemewyaine_94@yahoo.com



- Aina Nadia Najwa Mohamad Jaffar

UNIMAS Excellent Award Ceremony

MAGU 2016

Excellent Service Award

- * Prof. Dr. Pang Suh Cem
- * Assoc. Prof. Dr.
Othman Bojo
- * Dr. Siti Akmar Khadijah
Ab Rahim
- * Dr. Wong Sin Yeng
- * Dr. Lee Kui Soon
- * Dr. Faisal Ali Anwarali
Khan
- * Abas Said
- * Leo Bulin Unting
- * Benedict Samling
- * Dahlan Rambli
- * Mohamad NurfaZillah
Mohd Faizal
- * Mohd Hishamuddin
Wang
- * Trevor Allen Nyaseng

Acknowledgement of Service Certificate (15 Years)

- Assoc. Prof. Dr.
Edmund Sim Ji
Hang
- Assoc. Prof. Dr.
Hairul Azman b
Roslan
- Assoc. Prof.
Dr. Khairul Adha
A.Rahim
- Tanuri bt Men

Loyal Service Award

- Prof. Dr. Andrew Alek
Tuen
- Assoc. Prof. Charlie Justin
Mergie Laman
- Prof. Dr. Cheksum Tawan
- Prof. Dr. Fatimah Abang
- Prof. Dr. Hamsawi Sani
- Prof. Dr. Isa b Ipor
- Isa b Sait
- Prof. Dr. Ismail b Jusoh
- Karni b Taha
- Prof. Dr. Kasing Apun
- Prof. Dr. Kopli Bujang
- Prof. Dr. Lau Seng
- Prof. Dr. Lee Nyanti
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ling Teck
Yee
- Mohd Rizan Abdullah
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Othman
Bojo
- Prof. Dr. Pang Suh Cem
- Rajuna b Tahir
- Raymond Patrick Atet
- Rugayah Sami
- Saji b Kentol
- Salbiah bt Salleh
- Sekudan ak Tedong
- Prof. Dr. Shabdin b Mohd
Long
- Siti Fatimah Mahamaddin
- Zaidi b Hj Ibrahim
- Prof. Dr. Zani b Assim

Staff News

New Appointment

Prof. Dr. Fasihuddin
Badrudin Ahmad
Dean
Centre for Graduate Studies

Dr. Farah Akmal Idrus
Programme Coordinator
Animal Resource Science &
Management

Promotions

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ho Wei Seng
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khairul Adha A.
Rahim
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Azlan
Jayasilan Abd Gulam Azad
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ruhana Hassan
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Samsur Mohamad
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sim Siong Fong
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Rubiah Zainudin
Assoc. Prof. Charlie Laman Mergie
Dr. Dayang Salwani Awang Adeni
Dr. Rafeah Wahi

Staff Transfer

Sh Mariawati Wan Kassim (Transferred to
Undergraduates Studies Division)
Azaha Omar
(Transferred to Faculty of Engineering)
Affizzah Morshidi
(Transferred to Human Resource Department)
Noorbaizura Madehi
(Transferred to Institute of East Asian Studies)
Mohd Faizal Mahidin
(Transferred to Security Division)
Salbiah Salleh
(Transferred from Centre for Research and Innovation
Management)
Siti Fatimah Mahamaddin
(Transferred from Assistant Vice-Chancellor Office)
Mohd Hadzan Mos
(Transferred from Development Office)
Atikah Juma'at
(Transferred from Faculty of Cognitive Science and
Human Development)
Siti Nur Liyana Sariee
(Transferred from Centre of Academic Information
Centre)

Reappointment

Dr. Chong Yee Ling
Programme Coordinator
Animal Resource
Science & Management

New Lecturer

Prof. Dr. Kamaruzaman
Jusoff
Dr. Mohamad Fizl Sidq
Ramji



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